AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application..

1. **(Original)** A method for designing an application, comprising:

(a) receiving metadata and a policy;

(b) dynamically constructing a user-interface in accordance with the policy; and

(c) creating the application through the user-interface.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the user interface supports a design surface with a toolbox and wherein the toolbox has a plurality of available components.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein (c) comprises:

(i) creating a representation of the application, the representation having a stage, the stage having at least one component selected from the plurality of available components of the toolbox.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein (c) comprises:

(i) creating a representation of the application, the representation having a stage.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 3, wherein the representation is displayed in a graphical format.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein (c) comprises:

(i) creating a representation of the application, the representation having a stage, the stage having at least one component.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein (b) comprises:

(i) categorizing each component to one of a plurality of stages.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the stage includes a first component and a second component, and wherein (b) comprises:

(i) determining an ordering of the first component and the second component.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein (b) comprises:

(i) determining a cardinality of the stage.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein one of the at least one component is associated with a plurality of properties.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10, wherein (c) further comprises:

(ii) selecting one of the plurality of properties.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein (b) comprises:

(i) discovering the at least one component that resides on a computer, the computer supporting the user-interface.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein (c) further comprises:

(ii) compiling the representation of the application in concert with the policy.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein the representation of the application is expressed as an extensible markup language (XML) file.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein (c) further comprises:

(iii) in response to (ii), executing a plurality of computer-executable instructions.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein (c) further comprises:

(iii) determining whether an error exists in the representation.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 16, wherein (c) further comprises:

(iv) in response to (iii), indicating a determined component and a determined stage corresponding to the error.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the stage is associated with a plurality of components, and wherein (c) further comprises:

(ii) selecting a matched component from the plurality components, the matched component first matching a document being processed.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the stage is associated with a plurality of components, and wherein (c) further comprises:

(ii) determining whether the plurality of components shall be sequentially ordered.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein (c) comprises:

(i) receiving a command from the user:

(ii) in response to (i), indicating whether the command corresponds to a permitted operation for manipulating a representation of the application.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein (a) comprises:

(i) selecting the policy from a plurality of policies.

22. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

23. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 3.

24. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 12.

25. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 18.

26. **(Previously Presented)** A physical computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 19.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A system for designing an application, comprising:

a policy module that stores metadata, the metadata representing a set of rules that is associated with the application;

a user-interface module that generates a design surface, the design surface specifying the application to create the application;

a composition logic module that receives the metadata from the policy module and that restrains the design surface to be consistent with the metadata when displaying a representation of the application through the user-interface module; and

an input module that receives a command from a user to manipulate the design surface and that updates the design surface, through the composition logic module, in accordance with the command.

28. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, wherein the user-interface module comprises a display interface to a video display device, the video display device showing the design surface to the user.

29. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, further comprising:

a complier module that is coupled to the policy module and that transforms the representation into a set of computer-executable instructions, the set of computer-executable instructions being consistent with the metadata contained in the policy module.

30. **(Original)** The system of claim 29, further comprising:

an execution engine that executes the set of computer-executable instructions.

31. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, further comprising:

a memory that stores software, the software supporting a component, wherein the composition logic module discovers the component and provides a display indicator that is associated with the component.

32. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, wherein the policy module is co-located with the user-interface module.

33. **(Original)** The system of claim 27, wherein the policy module is remotely located from the user-interface module.

34. **(Currently Amended)** A physical computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure specifying an application, comprising:

(a) a first data field that contains a first identifier for a first component, the first component being ~~applicable for~~ used to create ~~an~~ the application;

(b) a second data field that contains a second identifier for a stage that is associated with the first component; and

(c) a third data field that represents at least one property that is associated with the first component.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The physical computer-readable medium of claim 34, further comprising:

(d) a fourth data field that contains another identifier for another component that is capable of being coupled to the first component.

36. **(Currently Amended)** A physical computer-readable medium having stored thereon a data structure, the data structure specifying an application, comprising:

(a) a first data field that contains a first identifier of a first stage for a user-interface;

(b) a second data field that contains a first indicator that indicates a first position of the first stage within a design surface, the design surface specifying a creation of ~~an~~ the application;

(c) a third data field that contains another identifier of another stage for the user-interface; and

(d) a fourth data field that contains another indicator that indicates a second position of the other stage within the design surface.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The physical computer-readable medium ~~radium~~ of claim 36, further comprising:

(e) a fifth data field that contains an processing indicator that indicates an ordering of a plurality of components that are associated with the first stage.

38. **(Currently Amended)** A method for designing an application, comprising:

(a) receiving metadata that is contained in a policy;

(b) dynamically constructing a user-interface in accordance with the policy, the user-interface supporting a design surface for a creation of the application and a toolbox with a plurality of available components;

(c) creating a representation of the application, the representation having at least one stage, each stage having at least one component selected from the plurality of available components by a user;

(d) compiling the representation of the application in concert with the policy; and

(e) in response to (d), executing a set of computer-executable instructions.